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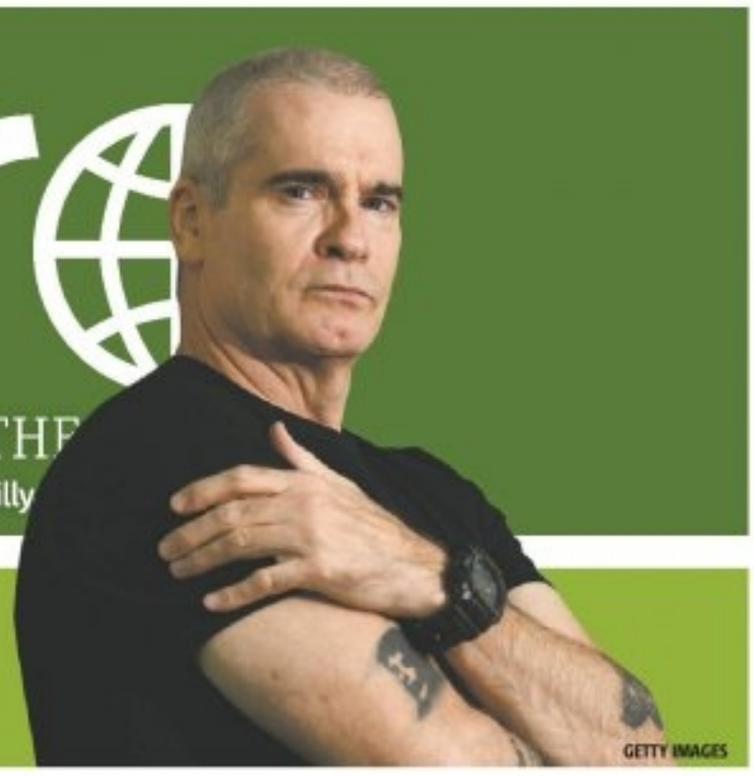

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FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

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WELCOME TO METRO PHILLY

MICHAEL BUTLER, REPORTER

Philadelphia is known for things like being one of the birthplaces of America and having the best cheesesteaks in the world. What Philly isn't generally known for is its connection to Marvel Comics' superheroes and its place in the Marvel Universe. I did some digging and worked with Marvel fact-checker Timothy Cheng and his team to find out which Marvel stars spent time here and why. From Storm of the X-Men attending a funeral at Mother Bethel AME Church and going on a tour of Philly to Deadpool trying to save the world via Old City, Philly is just as important in the Marvel Universe as it is in real life.

Dem Klobuchar joins growing presidential field

1 U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar entered the 2020 presidential race on Sunday, becoming the first moderate in an increasingly crowded field of Democrats vying to challenge President Donald Trump. Klobuchar, 58, becomes the fifth senator to announce her candidacy, and the fourth woman in the chamber. The senator from Minnesota will seek to position herself as a contrast to Trump, who is expected to be the Republican candidate in the November 2020 election, focusing on both policy differences but also style and tact. "I stand before you as the granddaughter of an iron ore miner, the daughter of a teacher and a newspaperman, the first woman elected to the United States Senate from the state of Minnesota, to announce my candidacy for president of the United States," Klobuchar said.

Fairfax must resign if rape claims are true: Governor

2 Virginia's embattled governor insisted he will not resign over a racist yearbook photo, but he said the state's lieutenant governor would have to step aside if sexual assault allegations against him are found to be true. Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam was asked about allegations of sexual crimes, including rape, that have been made by two women against Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax, a fellow Democrat and the state's second-highest elected official. Fairfax, who has denied the allegations and called for an investigation, has also faced widespread calls from Democratic leaders to step aside. "And if these accusations are determined to be true, I don't think he's going to have any other option but to resign," Northam said. Fairfax has said that encounters with both women were consensual.

Villagers burn paper horses in Binzhou

3 Villagers burn paper horses to pray for good fortune and good luck in the coming year during a sacrifice ceremony on Sunday in Binzhou, Shandong Province of China.

GETTY IMAGES

Talks collapse on border deal as shutdown looms

4 Talks on border security funding collapsed after Democratic and Republican lawmakers clashed over immigrant detention policy as they worked to avert another U.S. government shutdown, a Republican senator said on Sunday. "The talks are stalled right now," Republican Sen. Richard Shelby told "Fox News Sunday." He said the impasse was over Democrats' desire to cap the number of beds in detention facilities for people who enter the country illegally. Efforts to resolve the dispute over border security funding extended into the weekend as a special congressional negotiating panel aimed to reach a deal by Monday, lawmakers and aides said. Democratic Sen. Jon Tester played down any breakdown in talks. "It is a negotiation. Negotiations seldom go smooth all the way through," he told the Fox program.

Pope denounces 'scourge' of human trafficking

5 Pope Francis urged governments on Sunday to take decisive action against the $150 billion-a-year human trafficking business and the plight of millions of modern-day slaves. Francis was addressing tens of thousands of people in St. Peter's Square two days after the Roman Catholic Church marked an annual day of prayer and awareness over human trafficking. "I appeal, particularly to governments, so that the causes of this scourge are confronted decisively and the victims are protected," the Argentine pontiff said. An estimated 45.8 million people live in some form of slavery across the world, according to the 2016 Global Slavery Index by human rights group Walk Free Foundation. Migration has become a highly-politicized issue in Europe, though the number of asylum seekers arriving in 2015 has tapered off.

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Mayor James Kenney announced Sunday he's running for re-election. PROVIDED

Kenney officially announces campaign for re-election

The South Philadelphia native announced his intention Sunday to run for another term as mayor.

MICHAEL BUTLER
letters@metro.us

Mayor Jim Kenney announced his campaign for re-election Sunday morning with a new video.

Public school teacher John Coates praised Kenney's efforts in pushing for better schools. "Mayor Kenney is the people's champion because he's in the schools," Coates said. "He just doesn't send someone out to the schools. He has been in the schools himself. It helps us to know that there is someone that is on our side that really cares about our needs and concerns."

"Mayor Kenney is the people's champion because he's in the schools. He just doesn't send someone out to the schools. He has been in the schools himself."
John Coates, public school teacher

After recognizing that the Philadelphia School District will accumulate a deficit that will balloon to $1 billion by 2023, Kenney dissolved the School Reform Commission and created a new, nine-member Board of Education in its place to help reform Philly schools.

In addition to his work to improve the Philly school system, Kenney has been a proponent for maintaining Philadelphia's status as a sanctuary city. Sanctuary cities have been targets for President Donald Trump's administration, avid supporters of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in its apprehension of residents who are not legal citizens.

In June 2018, the Supreme Court voted against Philadelphia and other sanctuary cities losing federal funding because of their status. According to a Metro article on the ruling, Kenney called it an "important moment for all Philadelphians, especially our immigrant community."

Kenney's tenure has not been without its flaws. In July 2018, Kenney was at the center of a controversy surrounding the Made in America music festival, an annual two-day concert experience that takes over Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

After Kenney's office said the festival would no longer have a home on Benjamin Franklin Parkway, and did not initially present alternatives, festival founder and entertainment mogul Jay-Z wrote a pointed op-ed denouncing the mayor's decision, citing $102.8 million in economic impact as a primary reason for Made in America to continue.

Kenney and Jay-Z quickly made amends and publicly stated that Made in America will continue for years to come.

Philadelphians will vote in primary mayoral elections on May 21 and vote in general elections for mayor on Nov. 5.

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Spider-Man is one of many stars of the Franklin Institute's new Marvel Comics exhibit. FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

From Storm to Deadpool, Marvel heroes have unique Philly connections

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Philadelphia has connections to some of the most popular heroes in the Marvel Universe canon.

MICHAEL BUTLER
letters@metro.us

A new Franklin Institute exhibit, "Marvel: Universe of Super Heroes," explores some of Marvel Comics' most popular heroes in full detail.

From the X-Men to Spider-Man to the Fantastic Four, this new exhibit shows off things that comic-book heroes of all ages will be delighted to see.

What may surprise even die-hard Philly comics lovers is that a few of their favorite Marvel heroes have spent time here doing things from eating a cheesesteak to saving the day.

According to Marvel fact-checker Timothy Cheng and his team, some of Marvel's most popular characters have unique connections to Philadelphia.

Fictional character James Rhodes is a Philadelphia native known to comic-book fans as War Machine, Iron Man's ally in battle and a close friend to Tony Starks. What most people don't know is that following his death, Rhodes is buried at Philly landmark Mother Bethel AME Church. The real Mother Bethel AME Church was founded in 1890 and is the oldest church property in America to have consistently been owned by African-Americans.

Character Ororo Munroe, or Storm as she is known to fans, is one of the most popular X-Men. In one story line, she attends Rhodes' funeral in Philadelphia before going on her own personal tour of the city.

After attending Rhodes' funeral, the African weather goddess goes to a Phillies game and visits Old City to see Independence Hall.

"What did young James feel like looking at the hall where his nation was formed," Munroe asks thoughtfully of her fallen friend while visiting Independence Hall. "Or did a teacher remind you that people who looked like you and me weren't freed by this place?"

Munroe punctuates her Philly trip with a cheesesteak but, always the diplomat, doesn't say where she got her steak from or whether it was the best. As she ends her Philly visit by seeing the Liberty Bell, Munroe finds the bell to be "a brilliant symbol for America" and "flawed but worth fighting for."

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Storm visits Philly. COURTESY MARVEL COMICS

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City Council bill to ban 'cashless' businesses moves toward vote

Businesses that don't accept legal tender are discriminating against customers without credit cards, a councilman says.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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It's getting more and more common these days: A business where the cashiers will swipe your card or accept payment via mobile phone, but don't take cash.

While it may be trendy as fewer and fewer people, particularly affluent millennials, are carrying cash in the era of Venmo and Uber, it's also discriminatory against lower-income residents who still rely on cash, says City Councilman Bill Greenlee — even if the businesses involved don't intend it that way.

"Even if it's not intentional, it's discrimination, because the cashless stores basically exclude a segment of the lower-income, minority immigrant population," Greenlee said. "At a basic service business, I should be able to walk in and use a credit card if I want, but then the person behind me that might not have a credit card should be able to purchase the product if they have the money to."

With credit cards and smartphone apps that customers can use to tap and pay, more and more people are going cash-free in their day-to-day life and businesses are changing to accommodate them. Some businesses are even starting to accept cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin over cold hard cash.

The bill, scheduled to be voted on by City Council on Thursday, would give cashless businesses until July 1 to get compliant with the new law. Greenlee said that while there may not be a huge number of cashless businesses in Philadelphia, "there's evidence that it's gonna grow," meaning the change would be easier to implement now.

Other municipalities have raised similar concerns about cashless businesses restricting access to customers without bank accounts, and similar proposals to ban the practice have been made in New York City and Washington, D.C. A statewide ban on cashless businesses passed the New Jersey legislature recently.

While some businesses remain cash-only to avoid the per-dollar fees that come with accepting credit card or debit card payments, there are benefits to going cashless. These include safety — with no cash, there's nothing for a potential robber to take — and every transaction is recorded and accounted for to be properly taxed (a credit card transaction can't just go missing).

"Welcome to the Future — It's Cashless," says Sweetgreen, the popular organic salad and grain bowl chain with six locations in the Philadelphia area, in an online announcement of their decision to stop accepting cash as of March 2017.

At the time, Sweetgreen explained online that just handling cash takes up to two hours a day, regardless of amount. In 2007, 40 percent of their business was cash, and by 2016, that number had fallen to less than 10 percent, they said, while testing of cashless stores found staff could do 5 to 15 percent more transactions per hour, while customers were not too bothered by the change.

"So it's looking like cash maybe isn't king after all," Sweetgreen concluded in its announcement, pointing to Sweden as an example of "a nearly cashless society" and adding that going cashless would "save 100,000 driving miles (plus gas) for armored car pickups each year, as well as 500 pounds of paper. So eliminating green actually is more green."

A sign in a branch of Sweetgreen, the organic chain with several locations in Philly, explaining that they do not accept cash. GETTY IMAGES

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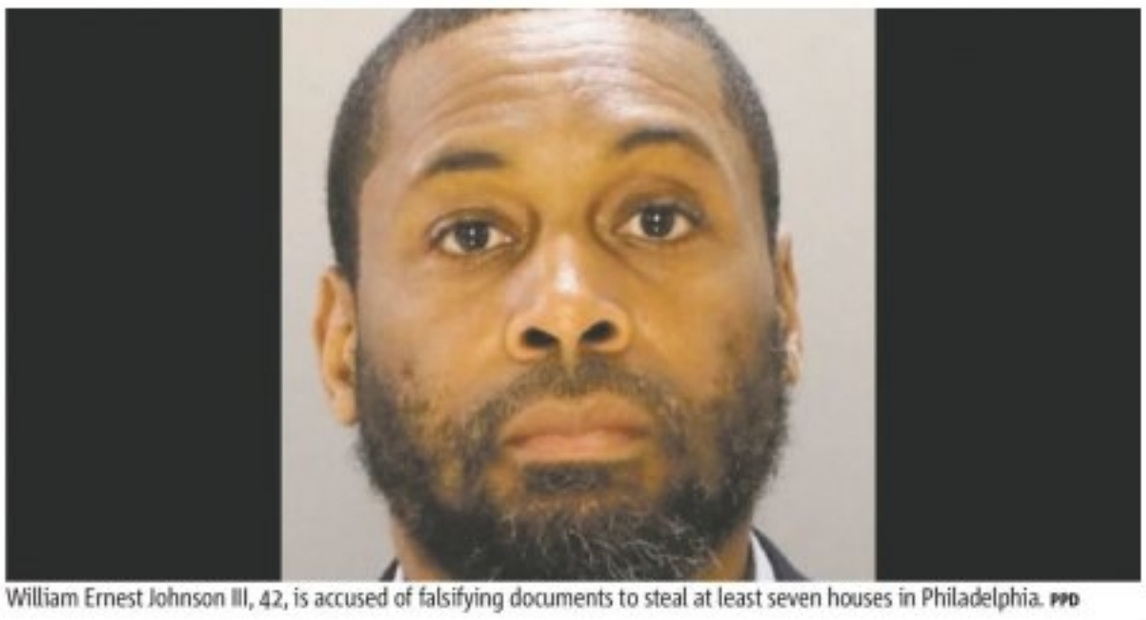
Philly man charged with forging paperwork to steal homes



William Ernest Johnson III, 42, is accused of falsifying documents to steal at least seven houses in Philadelphia. PPD

Over several years, William Ernest Johnson III allegedly forged paperwork to steal at least seven different homes around Philadelphia, the Philadelphia DA recently announced.

Johnson, 42, was arrested on Feb. 6 and charged with more than 60 counts allegedly relating to years of deed theft that he accomplished by allegedly forging the signatures of recently deceased homeowners and additionally faking notary seals on the falsified deeds.

"Mr. Johnson stole at least seven houses by falsifying and forging documents to make it appear as though he were the legitimate owner of these properties, despite the fact that the rightful owners had not consented to any sale," Philly DA Larry Krasner said at a press conference announcing the charges.

City Councilwoman María Quiñones-Sánchez (D-7th Councilmanic District) joined Krasner for the announcement of charges on Sunday, saying that deed fraud "has plagued my district."

"Historically, the illegal transfer of real property, deed fraud, has festered in gentrifying neighborhoods across Philadelphia," Quiñones-Sánchez said in a statement on her Facebook page. "Deed fraud requires the coordinated efforts of numerous government agencies and private institutions."

The DA Office's Economic Crime Unit undertook a prolonged investigation into the case, which was also reported on in a recent Inquirer investigation.

"It robs low-income families, especially African-Americans and Latinos, of the opportunity to build generational wealth," Krasner said of crimes like deed theft.

Johnson previously told the Inquirer that he had been deceived as well, telling them, "I assumed the seller of the home was legitimate. ... I'm just a person trying to earn an honest living" a few weeks before he was formally charged.

Johnson is alleged to have begun falsifying deeds in 2016 while on parole after 16 years spent in prison for two past convictions.

In some cases a woman an signed paperwork then transferred the deed to Johnson; in others, possibly made-up people who could not be tracked down signed the deed. After a deed theft has been finalized, family members of the rightful property owners can face thousands of dollars in legal fees trying to reclaim their property.

Several thefts were reported in the rapidly gentrifying section of Brewerytown in North Philadelphia, others in West Philly and different parts of North Philly, including Kensington. Two properties illegally stolen were flipped for $50,000 each, the Inquirer found.

Meanwhile, the city's process of requiring photos and ID from people changing deeds did not stop or deter Johnson from falsifying these deeds.

Krasner said broader changes to Philly's property records system are needed to end the risk of such crimes reoccurring in the future.

"This problem is not going to just be solved by the prosecution of individuals who have done this. This problem grows out of failures in legislation that make it too easy to do this," Krasner said. "Unless we change things, it will be more difficult to go buy groceries with your credit card than it is to get away with house fraud in Philadelphia."

The charges against Johnson, of the 5000 block of Copley Street, include theft, criminal conspiracy, unlawful taking and forgery. No defense attorney could immediately be reached for comment.

SAM NEWHOUSE

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Undefeated Philly lightweight boxers Steven Ortiz and Jeremy Cuevas face off before their big fight debut at The Met on Feb. 23. COURTESY LIVE NATION

Boxing in Philly — The Met, Parx Casino and beyond

Live Nation's The Met will host a Feb. 23 fight card.

A.D. AMOROSI
letters@metro.us

For 45 years, HBO and boxing were synonymous with Atlantic City, a reign that ended at 2018's end, when the cable giant decided to pull its pugilistic broadcast run. Though this allows ESPN, Showtime and the live-streaming DAZN network entrée into the AC boxing market and fights at that town's casinos and Boardwalk Hall, the Jersey shore seems quiet in 2019 when it comes to bouts big and small.

What this does is allow boxing in Philly a chance to shine again — not only at punch palaces like South Philly's 2300 Arena, where Michelle Rosado's Raging Babe promotion company held a multi-match showcase last Saturday, but spots new to boxing such as Broad Street's The Met Philadelphia and area casinos such as Parx.

Live Nation's The Met holds its first match in partnership with longtime local boxing impresario Manny Rivera's Hard Hitting Promotions on Feb. 23 with undefeated Philly lightweight fighters Jeremy Cuevas (11-0 with 8 knockouts) and Steven Ortiz (9-0 with 3 KOs) at the top of the card. (The Met actually ran regular boxing matches from 1939 to 1954.)

Parx and legendary promoter Joe Hand will hold their third boxing match together on March 1 (Xcite Fight Night 3) featuring old-school Philly cruiserweight Garrett Wilson and Brian Howard as the night's headliner.

Parx's bonus MMA boxing free-for-all, Bensalem's first Cage Fury Fighting Championships (CFFC), is March 2 with heavyweight champion (and onetime Parx security guard) Zu Anyanwu battling Philly police officer Chris Daukau.

Why now is Philly, from The Met to its casinos, using its left hook and its right uppercut again? What happened between 2019 and the close of the Broad Street boxing boite the Blue Horizon — now slated to become a Marriott hotel — in 2010?

"Being truthful, the Philadelphia boxing scene turned into an underground boxing

The February press conference announcing Live Nation and Hard Hitting Promotions' partnership. COURTESY LIVE NATION

scene," said Rivera, a promoter for 18 years with matches at SugarHouse and The Fillmore under his belt in the recent past. "But it's been fleeting, without a consistent series to speak of, and something that never really won the attention it deserved — and now on a stage such as The Met, thanks to Live Nation and their love for the sport."

Rivera goes on to enthuse that a platform such as his boxing series at The Met (next fights in mid-April) gives the sport the cachet to be major again, and powerful, not unlike Dr. Frankenstein watching his monster rage with the aid of electricity.

"Philly hasn't seen anything like a series since the heart of boxing, the Blue Horizon, shut down. We're bringing the heart back to life at The Met," Rivera said.

Marc Oppenheimer, Parx's chief marketing officer, talked up his Bensalem casino's relationship to Hand ("everyone recognizes Hand as one of the preeminent boxing promoters, highly reputable, easy to work with") and how their previous two fight cards sold out the 1,200 Xcite space with mature and millennial crowds.

"It's been a win-win for Hand and Parx," said Oppenheimer. "We have discussed televised boxing, and wish to move from regional title fights to national title fights. And our first MMA fight with CFFC and their newly-established relationship to the UFC — Parx would like to be the official home of cage fighting in the area going forward."

Talking up The Met's Feb. 23 brawl, Rivera claimed his card headliner is old-school boxing at its best. "Like in the 1930s and '40s, there's pride in ranking and the art of the game, rather than the boxing of today which is so focused on business," he said. "You never get two undefeated fighters at the top of their game fighting each other, BUT here at The Met, you will."

"You never get two undefeated fighters at the top of their game fighting each other, but here at The Met, you will."

Manny Rivera, Hard Hitting Promotions

Whether you're talking about the locals on the Parx card March 1 or The Met's match on Feb. 23, Rivera put it all in perspective: "Fighters like this, Cuevas vs. Ortiz, are why Philly is so legendary when it comes to the fight game. No matter what Philly boxer you see, you know you'll be entertained while seeing two guys giving their all. Doesn't matter what their record is, they're heart and soul. And if it's Philly vs. Philly? Wow. That's the very best boxing matchmaking you can have."

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with 8 knockouts
JEREMY CUEVAS

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with 3 knockouts
STEVEN ORTIZ

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Pat King
Grumble Editor

READER WRITE-INS:

UBER EATS
The other morning, I noticed a fast-food takeout bag on the floor of my apartment building lobby. The receipt was stapled onto the bag, with a bright-colored label which read "Uber Eats." The receipt listed all the items in the bag and the time of the order (3:30 a.m.) but the name of the customer was nowhere to be found. What kind of delivery service is this?

— **Dan Kraft,** *Metro Boston reader*

ISTOCK

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SEND US YOUR PET'S WINTER FASHION!

We were so overwhelmed by your submissions, faithful readers, of your pets looking cute in their best winter outfits that we thought it would be a good idea to post some of our favorites here. Enjoy!

Cody wrapped in blankets. SUSAN TRACY WOMBALD

Stella's winter gear. FLAVILYN TAN

Bolivar doing a quick yoga pose before heading outside. NANDO TIPPAWONGSE

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Look on the bright side of every situation you face. A positive attitude will help you find a solution.

Taurus Let your emotions and intuition lead the way. If you express your feelings, your suggestion will be well received.

Gemini Truth matters. Stick to the facts, and consult an expert who can get you up to speed if needed.

Cancer If someone makes a move you don't like, react intelligently. If you let anger take charge, you will lose ground.

Leo You may want change, but get the approval of those affected by your plans before you charge ahead.

Virgo Take a breather and have some fun. You'll learn much if you interact with people. Additional experience will improve your position.

Libra Listen, get ready and consider the possible obstacles. Preparation will make the difference between success and failure.

Scorpio You'll learn through experience and new things. Someone different from you will offer a suggestion that will take you by surprise.

Sagittarius You may know what you want, but how to get it will perplex you. Before you put your energy to work, have a feasible plan in place.

Capricorn Emotional matters can be dealt with. If you start a conversation and find out what others want, you'll know how to move forward.

Aquarius Look over an offer with skepticism. Trust in your ability, not in what someone else tells you or tries to coax you into doing.

Pisces Don't get angry if someone leans on you or asks for help. Consider what you can do and what you feel is fair, and strike a deal.

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LIFESTYLE

Fun things to do in Philly this week 5

Attend a pre-Valentine's Day extravaganza, enjoy a hilarious comedic event and more.

MOLLY GIVEN
Molly.Given@metro.us

Check out the beauty of space at the Franklin Institute. FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

Looking for some fun and unique things to do in Philly this week? We've got you covered.

Odd Bits & Misfits Dinner
High Street on Market is hosting this collaborative dinner dedicated towards increasing awareness and accountability of food waste in the ever-growing culinary world. The dinner will feature hors-d'oeuvres, shared plates, house-cured charcuterie and fermented vegetables, followed by a family-style main course and dessert. The delicious chef-driven meal will shine the spotlight on products, purveyors and organizations with common philosophies. Cocktails are at 7, dinner starts at 7:30. *Feb. 11, reservations available, High Street on Market, 308 Market St., pay-as-you-wish, highstreetonmarket.com*

Clean Slate Pre-Valentine's Day Party
Three Day Rule Matchmakers is hosting this event just in time for the love-filled holiday. However, if you have no Valentine that's no problem. You can be your own Romeo and Juliet at this exciting event featuring over 150 guests, delicious cocktails and games of truth or dare. Need to wipe the slate clean of your ex? Guests can bring photos of their ex and throw them into the Burning Cauldron of Love. *Feb. 13, 7 p.m.-10 p.m., Scarpetta, 210 W. Rittenhouse Sq., scarpettarestaurants.com*

"For the Love of Amaro"
East Passyunk hotspot Plenty Café is partnering with the Campari Group for this event that will feature exclusive Amaro tastings- and all Philadelphians are invited. Sample tastings of delicious Campari products will be free during the two-hour window, and Plenty Café will also offer $5 spritzes with the customers' selection of digestif in their cocktail until closing. As a bonus Plenty Café is also offering specialty cicchetti (Italian tapas) that originated in Venice throughout the evening. *Feb. 13, 6 p.m.-9 p.m., Plenty Cafe, 1710 E. Passyunk Ave., plentyphiladelphia.com*

"Awkward Sex... and the City" Valentine's Day
This hilarious show at Punch Line Philly is the perfect idea for any date night, especially on Valentine's Day. Four hilarious comedians will be performing in a 90-minute show while breaking barriers about sex, relationships, dating taboos and more. All Philadelphians are invited to embark on the hysterical journey and truly have a Valentine's Day that they will never forget. *Feb. 13, 7 p.m., Punch Line Philly, 33 E. Laurel St., $27-$37, punchlinephilly.com*

Night Skies in the Observatory
Join the Franklin Institute for this event that is truly out of this world. Dr. Hakeem Oluseyi, astrophysicist, inventor, and co-host of the Science Channel's "Outrageous Acts of Science" will be featured as a special guest. The evening will consist of a live science talk on astronomy and space science, free star maps, hands-on astronomy activities and continuous telescopic observing all evening (if the weather permits of course). *Feb. 12, 7 p.m.-10 p.m., Franklin Institute, 222 N. 20th St., $10, fi.edu*

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

MR. STORAGE will sell to satisfy the lien of the landlord at public sale by competitive bidding online at www.storageauctions.com on **February 22, 2019**, the goods stored in the spaces of the following tenants:

At 10 am at 355 W. Main Street, Norristown., PA 19401

2914 Dreakwon Albertson, 3407 Robert Baldwin, 2915 Leona Bibbs, 2802 Robert Hart, 3804 Cheryl Jones-Graham, 2508 Angela Kennel, 1040 Lundy Raven, 2202 Denise Palmer, 4027 Jose Rodriquez, 1015 Ulysses Tribble, 4017 Christy Williams, 3401 Yasmin Williams.

At 10 am at 2515 S. Front St., Phila., PA 19148

1070 Raven Ashford, 1031 Regina Barnes, 2026 Henry Decuir III, 2025 Jessica Eastwood, 3087 Margaret Kelly, 3084 Daniel Leonard, 2048 Xiang Long, 3055 Paul Miller, 4024 Dora Mills, 5741 Agnes Nagy, 1055 Harry Pence, 3069 Tanya Torres, 3027 Nicole S Young.

At 10 am at 7049 Frankford Ave., Phila., PA 19135

1704 William Brauer, 0019 Frank Forba, 507 Kevin Irving, 0021 Eugine Lloyd, 501 Lois Nelson, 1120 Dalia Rios, 1619 Juanita Misha Robinson, 608 Radkem Burwell, 1705 Anthony Weiss Jr.

At 10 am at 5440 North 6th Street, Phila., PA 19120

2304 Natasha Brown, 3309 Tanisha Denton, 905 Megan Dixon, 3312 Jasmine Ebo, 2506 Tamica Gilbert, 1408 Latoya McGhie, 3108 Dinja Miles, 209 Sean K Myers, 337 Theodore Norman, 2906 Ronald Shaw, 2904 Ronald Shaw, 809 Tracey Nesmith-White, 1311 Adrienne S. Young.

At 10 am at 5026 Ridge Ave., Phila., PA 19128

105 Donald Allen, 705 Clara Alvarado, 463 Jeremy Boyd, 1316 Curtis Dailey, 6 Alfredo Diaz, 21 Crystal Evans, 145 Donna Fulton, 1609 Rhonda E. Hall, 248 Michael Miller, 225 Antoinette Moore, 527 Iesiah O. Patterson, 548 James Pickett, 530 Arthur Rowland, 315 Mercedes Stephens, 302 Danielle Traylor, 681 Jeremy Turner, 9 Lakita Woodson.

At 10 am at 6758 Ridge Ave., Phila., PA 19128

100 Todd Anderson, 19 Johanna Donnelly, 153 Paul Heiser, 155 Benjamin Gamberling-Johnson, 136 Mynellies Negron, 41 Daniel Parkinson, 129 Sherman Smith.

At 10 am at 850 N. Eagle Rd., Havertown, PA 19083

#3419 Thomas Brown.

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Why Henry Rollins doesn't call himself a comedian

The musician doesn't think his "talking shows" are standup comedy.

ANDREW HUSBAND
drew.husband@metro.us

Henry Rollins doesn't consider himself a comic. SHOWTIME/COMEDY DYNAMICS

Six months after its premiere on Showtime, the latest spoken word special from musician, actor and writer Henry Rollins is set to debut on the Comedy Dynamics Network via iTunes, Google Play, Amazon, Microsoft Xbox, Vudu, Spectrum and Dish Network.

In "Keep Talking, Pal," Rollins tells equally comedic and thoughtful stories about his time as the frontman of the Henry Rollins Band, his friendship with the iconic American drag queen RuPaul and the current state of politics in America. As the nearly 58-year-old performer explained it to Metro, however, he doesn't consider himself a comedian.

"Maybe I have more comedic beats in what I say these days, but I've never considered what I'm doing to be a standup show," he explains. "I still call them 'talking shows.' So when people ask me if I'm a comedian or not, I always make fun of myself. I'm just a nervous guy talking at a high rate of speed. So, basically, I'm just a reporter. I'm telling the audience stories of what I've seen and all my I travels. I travel all over the world looking for great stories."

Even so, Rollins understands why comedy audiences who may not be familiar with his previous "talking shows" would be interested in Keep Talking, Pal.

"Lewis Black, for example, says s--t that's not always funny. It's amazing but it's not necessarily funny," he says. "And then you're laughing a minute later. When you get him on heated topics like abortion and similar stuff, though, he's as serious as a heart attack."

Hence why the special largely consists of long, detailed stories regarding Rollins' various experiences that are occasionally punctuated by punchlines. It's nothing like a typical standup set, during which the performing comic will pepper their set with jokes every 10 to 15 seconds, but it's still enough to keep viewers engaged.

Aside from the fact that, as Rollins himself admits, the majority of "Keep Talking, Pal's" audiences will likely be people who are already familiar with his work, it's evident that he has spent a great deal of time honing the craft of storytelling. Considering his comedy acting credentials, be it for films like "The Chase" or TV shows like "Portlandia," viewers might assume this is due to Rollins' ability to improve. That assumption would be wrong.

"I will walk about a mile out and back on or near Ventura in the San Fernando Valley, where I live, telling myself these stories," he explains. "I'm doing it out loud, like I'm on stage telling them, so that I can hear my voice saying them. That way I can determine which parts are boring and have to go, which lines are good and should be repeated, and so on. That's how I put it all in front of my brainpan."

"I'll keep doing this to work things out," he continues, "while walking along the street or pacing around in my house."

"Henry Rollins: Keep Talking, Pal" debuts Feb. 12 on the Comedy Dynamics Network.

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The peak winter TV season is now in full swing. Most shows with midseason breaks over the holidays have since returned to their regular programming. Meanwhile, plenty of new series and specials are about to drop. Here's what to watch on TV this week **ANDREW HUSBAND**

"THE UMBRELLA ACADEMY"

NETFLIX

Feb. 15 on Netflix

Based on the award-winning graphic novel series written by My Chemical Romance frontman Gerard Way, "The Umbrella Academy" follows the surviving adopted children of Sir Reginald Hargreeves (Colm Feore). Most of them are super-powered, except for Vanya (Ellen Page), and they loosely fit the definition of a "family" – even in the event of their adoptive father's death. When an apocalyptic event threatens the future of humanity, however, they must band together to stop it.

"LORENA"

Feb. 15 on Amazon Prime

In the new documentary series" Lorena," which is also produced by Jordan Peele, filmmaker Joshua Rofé argues that the Bobbitt story actually "laid the groundwork for the modern 24-hour news cycle and increasing sensationalistic media coverage" TV viewers are now accustomed to. The series also claims "the Bobbitt story was a missed opportunity for a national discussion on domestic and sexual assault in America." The series includes interviews with Lorena, John Wayne and many others.

"WEIRD CITY"

Feb. 13 on YouTube Premium

In what may sound like another ripoff of Charlie Brooker's "Black Mirror" horror anthology series, Jordan Peele and Charlies Sanders' new show "Weird City" proves itself to be something different. At least in terms of the comedy, because all the science-fiction and fantasy-esque hallmarks of the popular Netflix program are all there. Every episode takes place in Weird and explores issues that pertain to present-day life via stories that could only be told with a blend of sci-fi and comedy.

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Why making 'Happy Death Day 2U' was no easy task

Israel Broussard and Christopher Landon talk us through filming the sequel.

GREGORY WAKEMAN
Gregory.Wakeman@metro.us

Filming the sequel wasn't exactly easy. ALL PHOTOS UNIVERSAL PICTURES

When filming concluded on "Happy Death Day," Israel Broussard thought that he would never have to see the plaid shirt that his character Carter repeatedly wore ever again.

However, he didn't realize the trick that its director Christopher Landon had planned for the follow-up, which sees Jessica Rothe's Tree return to the exact same day where she has to die over and over again, but this time in a different dimension, where Broussard is wearing the same shirt.

"I would burn that plaid shirt," Broussard tells Metro, while Landon admits that it was a "miserable" experience having to recreate the scenes from the original for the followup.

"At the end of shooting this movie everyone wanted to smash their head against a wall," he insists. "Because everything was about trying to recreate something that they saw from the first movie. Every department had to somehow figure that out. It was crazy. For location we had used a hospital in New Orleans. We wanted to just go back and shoot at the hospital. But they had gutted the hospital. So we had to rebuild it on the inside to make it look exactly the same."

"Even down to the background actors. Actors that were way in

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Store Space, wishing to avail themselves of the provisions under the Self-Service Storage Facility Act., hereby gives notice of the sale under said act to wit; **Thursday the 21st day of February, 2019** at **11:00 AM**, on that day will conduct a public sale to the highest bidder, with bidding to take place on lockerfox.com, FOR CASH ONLY, the contents of spaces at Store Space - **Lancaster, 5134 Lancaster Ave, Philadelphia, PA, 19131**

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Elliott, Ralph 1202; Vasquez, Annette 3023; Montgomery, Tyra 1076; Maldonado, Alex 2054; SOSTRE, MARIBEL 2060; Candelaria, Luis 3157; Salerno, Michael RV09; Salerno, Michael RV11; Robnson, Kimberly 3196

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will sell, to satisfy lien of the owner, at public sale by competitive bidding on **2/21/2019** at **10:00AM** online at www.StorageAuctions.com at Safeguard Storage facility located at: **Safeguard Self Storage, 6224 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19144, phone: 215-848-4013.** The personal goods stored therein by the following:

safeguard self storage

0120 Shakeriah Curry, Bags, Suitcases • 0309 Marquis Wilson, Furniture • 0413 Cathy Davis-Wells, Trunks, Suitcases
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0424 Nathan Wilson, Household Goods, Boxes, Suitcases, Toys, Furniture
1147 Adrienne Young, Household Goods, Boxes, Trunks, Suitcases, Appliances • 2219 Acie Way, Household Goods, Boxes, Toys, Furniture, Tools
3421 Marcell Cabrera, Household Goods, Furniture Boxes • 3603 Michael Brame, Household Goods, Boxes, Furniture, Suitcases, Sporting Goods, Tools

Purchases must be paid at the facility with Credit Card or Cash. All Purchases must be complete within 72 hours of the end of the online action. A $100.00 cash cleaning deposit is required until all items in the unit are removed from the premises and verified by the manager on duty. Sale subject to cancellation until the purchase is completed; company reserves the right to refuse any online bids.

Auction by StorageAuctions.com • Phone: (866) 944-8530

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will sell, to satisfy lien of the owner, at public sale by competitive bidding on **2/21/2019** at **9:00AM** online at www.StorageAuctions.com at the Safeguard Storage facility located at: **Safeguard Self Storage, 1499 66th Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19126 • 215-224-6700.** The Personal goods stored therein by the following:

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

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1320 Crystal Johnson, Household Goods, Boxes • 2405 Fatima Lawrence, Household Goods, Boxes, Toys
4121 Naiya Lopez, Household Goods, Boxes, Bags • 2106 Amarili Lopez, Household Goods, Boxes
4116 Marangely Melendez Household Goods, Boxes • 4204 Loraine Rivera, Household Goods, Boxes
3209 Cynthia Rivers, Household Goods, Boxes • 2206 Teasha Thomas, Household Goods, Boxes

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Brinkley, Gerald 2087 • Feaster, Anthony 1222 • Gilbert, Barbara 1038 • Gilbert, Charles 1267
Glenn, Lakiesha 2107 • Hammock, Anthony 0009 • Hartig, William 0068 • Hyman, Barbara 2033
Jacobs, Barbara 2094 • Lowe, Gregory 3067 • Lovett, Airiek 1066 • Mitchell, William 0021
Morse, Anthony 1146 • Pittman, Jameel 3056 • Rivers, Ernest 1076 • Robinson, Valerie 2216
Sweat, Bessie 3024 • Thomas, Marsheedah 2150 • Tucker, Sabrena 3006 • Turner, Vernetta 2131

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the distance. We had to track them, put them in the same clothes, hope they hadn't changed. So there was a lot of luck in this movie. We just got lucky that people didn't decide to lop off all their hair or gain a hundred pounds or whatever."

But while Broussard is obviously sick of the attire, he actually didn't mind having to play Carter on that day over and over again.

"It was a little difficult at first. But Carter is such an optimistic guy. He's a little nerdy. But he's sweet and he sees the best in people and he sees the best in every situation. As far as the continuity goes, I feel like I had a lot of freedom. The only thing that I have to be pretty conscious about is the line, 'Oh, hey, you're up.' That's the line that's kind of got to stay the same. But once she wakes up, it was fun playing off of whatever she gave me."

It also didn't help matters that there are only 16 months between the release dates for the films. Broussard, who only got the script in December, admits, "We weren't expecting the turnaround to be this quick actually. I wasn't expecting the movie to be made this quick. I think we started filming at the end of May last year. So it had been a little over a year since we had filmed the first one."

"When I read this script for the first time I thought we'd film it next year and then it'll come out in a year or two. Then I learned that they were aiming for a Valentine's Day release toward the end of shooting. That was just a rumor going around on set. It wasn't official. So when they were like, 'Yeah we're doing it on Valentine's Day.' I was like, 'It's done? We just got off set.' So there was a lot of excitement with Blumhouse and Universal and I'm glad the turnaround happened. It is awesome."

"Happy Death Day 2U" opens in theaters Feb. 13.

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3291 Cynthia Belanga, Household Goods, Boxes, Toys • 3511 Elaine Hallacher, Household Goods, Boxes, Bags • 2138 Celsy Hernandez, Household Goods, Boxes, Clothes
2311 DOMINIQUE Jarrett, Household Goods, Boxes, Toys • 3340 Heriberto Moron, Household Goods, Boxes, Bags • 3046 Andreina Ortiz, Household Goods, Boxes
1335 Maritza Rodriguez, Household Goods, Boxes, Toys • 2136 LaKeisha Sherman, Household Goods, Boxes, Bags • 2411 Orlando Torregrosa Diaz, Household Goods, Boxes, Clothes
3220 Marjorie Torres, Household Goods, Boxes, Clothes • 3107 Ashley Vera, Household Goods, Boxes • 1317 Freddie O'Neal, Household Goods, Boxes • 1208 Blanca Wilson, Household Goods, Boxes

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• 0321 Aquan Donaldson, Household Goods, Boxes, Appliances and Tools • 0328 Terry Carson, Household Goods, Boxes and Suitcases
• 0337 Adriana Jenkins, Household Goods, Furniture, Boxes and Appliances • 2233 Clifford Guy, Household Goods and Totes
• 3605 Sabrina Norfleet, Furniture, Boxes, Trunks, Appliances and 4 Rims • 4114 John Pairs, Bike, Bins, Boxes, Mattress, Suitcase, T.V. Mount and Ladder
• 4326 Christie Rosser, Furniture, Boxes, Suitcases, Appliances and Clothing
• 4501 Matthew Buckner, Household Goods, Furniture, Boxes, Trunks, Suitcases, Toys and Sporting Goods
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1300 Terrie Hudson-Turpin, Household Goods, Furniture, Boxes, Toys, Appliances, Tools • 1400 Chris Kern, Boxes • 1400 Chris Kerns, Boxes
1406 Richard Warot, Household Goods, Furniture, Boxes • 1412 Vanessa Blakely, Household Goods, Furniture, Boxes, Sporting Goods
2103 Michael Bernstein, Household, Furniture, Boxes, Suitcases, Appliances, Sporting Goods, Tools, Toys
2119 Joe Stephenson, Household, Furniture, Boxes • 2136 Saran Murray, Household Goods, Furniture, Boxes, Suitcases • 2213 Nicole Willits, Furniture, Boxes
2227 Elissa Eckert, Household, Furniture, Boxes, Trunks, Toys • 2711 Anthony Baylock, Household Goods, Furniture, Appliances

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How student loan default can gut your paycheck

NerdWallet is a personal finance website.

There's a dirty little secret of the student debt crisis. One that affects millions of borrowers, but isn't talked about at dinner tables, on social media or in think pieces about student loans.

The taboo topic is wage garnishment and it works like this: Default on your federal student loans and the government can take up to 15% of each paycheck to satisfy your debt. That amounts to $300 per month for someone who normally takes home $2,000 per month. The Education Department can also withhold federal benefits like tax refunds and Social Security payments.

Garnishment is an effective tool to recoup unpaid loans — private collection agencies enlisted by the Education Department took in over $841.6 million via wage garnishment in the 2018 fiscal year — but it inflicts serious financial strain on borrowers who are already struggling.

"It's a very powerful collection tactic that can really devastate the financial lives of the people subjected to it," says Joanna Darcus, a staff attorney at the National Consumer Law Center who works with low-income student loan borrowers. "They can't afford to pay their rent, buy their medicine, buy clothes for their kids and also pay a large percentage of their wages toward their student loan."

If you received notice of garnishment or are already in the thick of it, don't panic; you have options that are far less painful than a 15% hit to your paycheck.

Stop garnishment before it starts

The ideal time to take action is when you begin struggling to make payments. At that point, your loan servicer can help you explore other repayment options, including income-based plans that cap your monthly payment.

Once your loans are in default — nearly nine months past due for most federal loans — those options are off the table until your loan is in good standing. You can rehabilitate your loans to move out of default (more on that below). You also have a brief window to consolidate your federal loans (combining them into a single loan with its own interest rate) before the Education Department, via a private collection agency, moves to garnish your wages.

The collection agency handling your federal loans will notify you by mail before it starts garnishing your wages. The notice serves as your 30-day warning. During this time, you can stop the process by negotiating payment arrangements with the agency.

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MH-43796-AA MAR 2017

The key: It must receive your first payment in that 30-day window.

If you can't make a payment within that window, request a hearing to appeal the garnishment. To prevent garnishment from starting, you must request the hearing in writing within 30 days of the date on your collection notice. You can still file an appeal after garnishment starts, but the collection agency will continue to take up to 15% of your take-home pay while the case is reviewed, which can take two to three months.

A hearing sounds intimidating but it's no more than a long form detailing your income, debt and expenses. The goal is to stop or reduce garnishment.

"You hear the word 'hearing' and think, 'Oh my god, I need an attorney!' But it's just a basic exchange of information," says Betsy Mayotte, founder of The Institute of Student Loan Advisors.

Contact the collection agency handling your loan to talk about payment arrangements or get details on a hearing request. Not sure whom to call? Check the National Student Loan Data System to find out who is managing your loan and how to reach them.

Rehabilitate your loan

Loan rehabilitation is a one-time "Get out of default" card. Here's how it works:

The collection agency sets a monthly payment based on your income, minus any reasonable monthly expenses. The amount could be as low as $5 a month.

You'll need to provide documentation, like copies of pay stubs and bills, and complete a detailed form to help determine the amount. Any wages garnished due to defaulted student loans will be considered among your expenses.

Make nine payments of the agreed-upon amount within 10 months and your loans move out of default. Any wage garnishment will stop. And you're once again able to choose a repayment plan that works for you, including several income-based options that could drop your monthly payment to $0.

Once out of default, take care to stay out. Make your payments each month. Recertify your income every year if you're on an income-based plan. And call your loan servicer if you run into trouble. If you default a second time, you'll have fewer options. KELSEY SHEEHY

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Tuesday, March 5
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Delaware County Location

Wednesday, March 6
Starting at 6 p.m.
East Falls Campus

Thursday, March 7
Starting at 6 p.m.
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DraftKings not just in the fantasy game

DraftKings has a retail sportsbook in AC and is thriving online.

MATT BURKE

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editorial Director of MetroBet.

DraftKings is already the gold standard in daily fantasy sports but the company has quickly set itself up to be at the forefront of the sports betting boom as well. DraftKings Sportsbook is currently the top online operator in the state of New Jersey by a wide margin and the company has a popular retail sportsbook up and running in Atlantic City at Resorts Casino AC as well. DraftKings hopes to have an online sportsbook in Pennsylvania up and running by the start of the 2019 NFL season in September.

Executives at the company have told MetroBet several times over the past few months that they want to get creative with the way people bet on sports. They have introduced innovative ideas in New Jersey like sports betting pools where you pay an entry fee and directly compete against other sports bettors. DraftKings also rolled out a "betting carousel" late last year, which makes it easier for users to customize which events they most want to bet on.

"The exciting thing about [the online sportsbook] is that most of the great innovations we haven't even thought of yet," DraftKings CEO and co-founder Jason Robins told MetroBet. "Our team is really looking forward to being creative and innovative in the coming years."

With sports betting gaining so much momentum so quickly — much like the daily fantasy boom four years ago — one wonders if DraftKings' bread and butter could take a hit in popularity.

"For now I think it's the opposite," Robins told MetroBet. "Daily fantasy sports is still growing. It's a halo effect we're seeing with sports betting and [DFS], not just in New Jersey but we're seeing a big spike in customer re-activation for [DFS] across the board. The world changes quickly and it's hard to predict which way things are going to swing long-term. But I think [sports betting and fantasy sports] are complementary. Most people I know who play fantasy also bet. No one really sees one as a placement over the other. I think more people on our platform will create more activity."

GETTY IMAGES

TWEET OF THE DAY

Cousin Sal
@TheCousinSal

Football is back! I am so AAFing excited!

How to bet on sports: Introduction to basic sports betting **terminology**

MATT BURKE

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editorial Director of MetroBet.

One of the more exciting aspects of now having legal sports betting in Philadelphia is that many people will be betting on games for the first time. Having a few dollars riding on the Birds or the Phillies or that random Monday Night Football game just makes things that much more fun. For you first-timers out there, here is some sports betting lingo and basic terminology that will have you ready to win big!

Cover

When you beat the spread by the required number of points. If you pick the favorite in the game, you "cover the spread" when you win by more than the spread. If you pick the underdog, you win by winning outright or by losing less than the spread. For example, if the Eagles are four-point favorites and win by seven, they "cover the spread."

In-game bet

When you bet on a game while the game is being played.

ATS

(Against the Spread) Instead of a team's win-loss record, it refers to how well a certain team has done in terms of the spread over the course of their season. For instance, the Eagles are 5-1 against the spread in their last six games.

Parlay

When you bet on multiple teams in one bet. To win, you have to have all the teams you bet on cover the spread. Payouts can increase dramatically if you hit on a parlay.

Moneyline

A bet where you only need the team you bet on to win, regardless of the spread.

Hedging

When you bet the opposite of your original bet to minimize a potential loss.

Push

When the result of the game lands on the betting number. You don't win or lose, you simply get your money back.

Futures

A bet based on how well a certain team does for the whole season. For instance, the Phillies have 14/1 odds of winning the 2019 World Series.

The spread

The number of points a certain team is favored by. For instance, the Eagles are four-point favorites over the Cowboys. The spread is four points.

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Phillies at 84.5 wins? Money in the bank

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GLEN MACNOW

Glen Macnow is a renowned sports talk radio voice in Philadelphia on WIP. He is the host of the Eagles official pregame show.

GETTY IMAGES

I've been walking around since November with $100 in my back pocket. I host my radio show at a Delaware casino every Saturday, and I've earmarked that C-note to slap down at the betting window once I decide which way to wager on the Phillies in 2019.

The bill is frayed after all these months. So are my nerves. Because all this time I've been waiting to see whether the Phils sign Manny Machado or Bryce Harper or — be still my heart — both, before investing on either side of the Vegas over-under of 84.5 wins.

And then, last Thursday, the skies opened up and there was a sign from God — or, in this case, GM Matt Klentak. The Phils swapped a top pitching prospect, a suspect catcher and a bag of beans to Miami for J.T. Realmuto, the best all-around catcher in baseball.

It's hard for most fans to assess the value of Realmuto because, let's face it, who ever watches the Marlins? But he's a former shortstop who can run, block pitches and has the sport's quickest release time throwing to second.

Offensively, Realmuto led all MLB catchers last season in slugging percentage, doubles and WAR. He popped 21 home runs playing half the time at Miami's cavernous stadium; he'll add a half-dozen at cozy Citizens Bank Park.

I also think he'll add four or five wins to the Phils' bottom line. Great catchers can do that.

The Phils collapsed down the stretch to finish 80-82 last season. Since then, they added a nifty shortstop in Jean Segura, a veteran leader in Andrew McCutchen and a reliable setup man/closer in David Robertson. They pushed out Carlos Santana, which benefits the club by putting Rhys Hoskins on first.

On the down side, the starting rotation — after Aaron Nola — looks as thin and frail as papyrus. Even with all the moves, they'll still trot out a lineup of guys who whiff far too often. And manager Gabe Kapler raised serious questions last season as to whether he's the guy who can lead them anywhere.

So they're not going to win 100 games. At least not until Harper or Machado signs here. I'm waiting for that. I'm also waiting for Halley's Comet.

But rather than keep the money in my pocket until Ben Franklin's portrait disappears, I'm strolling to that casino betting window this week. Actually, I'll be sprinting, because I want to lay down my bet before the oddsmakers realize how many wins Realmuto is going to add to the season total.

Phillies at 84.5 wins? Bet the over. You can thank me when you cash that ticket sometime around mid-September.

Sports on TV Highlights

7:00 pm	**NHL Hockey** Pittsburgh Penguins vs. Philadelphia Flyers	NBCSN
7:00 pm	**Men's CBB** Virginia Cavaliers vs. UNC Tar Heels	ESPN
8:00 pm	**NBA Basketball** Dallas Mavericks vs. Houston Rockets	NBA TV
9:00 pm	**Men's CBB** Kansas Jayhawks vs. TCU Horned Frogs	ESPN
9:00 pm	**Men's CBB** Oklahoma Sooners vs. Baylor Bears	ESPN 2
10:00 pm	**NHL Hockey** San Jose Sharks vs. Vancouver Canucks	ESPN+

Flyers–Penguins betting preview

The Philadelphia Flyers (25-23-7) had an eight-game win streak snapped by the Kings on Feb. 7, but a bounce-back 6-2 decision over the Ducks two nights later says that they're still one of the hottest teams in the NHL (9-1 over their last 10 tilts). Philadelphia hopes to build on this run as its slumping in-state rivals, the Pittsburgh Penguins (28-20-7), come to the Wells Fargo Center on Monday night.

Pittsburgh is 3-7 straight-up in its last 10 games. The Penguins offense has been adequate in that span (2.8 goals per game), but they've struggled to find those extra tallies on the power play, where they're clicking at just 12 percent. Their defense and goaltending has been poor, allowing 40 goals over the last 10 games. The Penguins' penalty kill has also suffered, staving off just 68 percent of opponents' power plays in that 10-game sample. Pittsburgh will gladly welcome back defenseman Justin Schultz if he indeed returns from an injury suffered in October, but he can only be expected to do so much right away.

GETTY IMAGES

Flyers forwards Sean Couturier and Jakub Voracek continue to baffle opposing stoppers, as they've combined for six goals and nine assists over their last five contests.

PREDICTION: Flyers -110

ROBERT CRISCOLA

VSiN DAILY LINE

NHL

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS VS. PHILADELPHIA FLYERS -110

SAN JOSE SHARKS -130 VS. VANCOUVER CANUCKS

NBA

DALLAS MAVERICKS VS. HOUSTON ROCKETS -8.5

MEN'S CBB

VIRGINIA CAVALIERS VS. UNC TAR HEELS -2

KANSAS JAYHAWKS VS. TCU HORNED FROGS -3

OKLAHOMA SOONERS VS. BAYLOR BEARS -4.5

SPORTS

3 Reasons why Flyers will and won't make the Stanley Cup playoffs

After a tumultuous start to the season, the Flyers have figured things out and are back in the hunt for a playoff spot.

ERIC GOLDSTEIN
sports@metro.us

It was just four weeks ago when Philadelphia Flyers fans were actually rooting for the team to lose to increase its chances of landing the top pick in the NHL draft to select stud center Jack Hughes.

However, as the Flyers prepare to face the Pittsburgh Penguins on Monday at the Wells Fargo Center, those same fans have probably reversed course and are pulling for the team to win to increase its chances of qualifying for the Stanley Cup playoffs.

The Flyers were 16-23-6, had the second-fewest points in the NHL and were 14 points out of the last postseason spot on Jan. 12. But thanks to their recent eight-game winning streak, they are just six points back of the Penguins for the final wild-card position.

When pressed about their renewed chances following last Monday's 2-1 win over the Vancouver Canucks, the players and head coach all said they are only focused on the next game, which is fine and predictable, especially in early February.

But the media and fans are focused on the playoffs. Therefore, the million-dollar question is, can the Flyers complete a historic run and make the playoffs?

With 27 regular-season games left, here are three reasons they will make it, and three reasons they will not.

They will because of ...

CARTER HART

The 20-year-old goaltender has stabilized the position, infused the roster with confidence and energy and shown the Flyers that they can possibly ride his talents beyond the regular season. Hart, who is 11-5-1 and riding an eight-game winning streak with a goals-against average of 2.45 and .926 save percentage, was named the NHL's Second Star of the Week two weeks ago.

THE TRADE DEADLINE

While it looked as if new general manager Scott Fletcher would be a seller at the Feb. 25 deadline, he now might try to add a player (or two) for the stretch drive. Don't expect a two-month rental who will be a free agent this summer, but a top four veteran defenseman or top six forward who can help this year and beyond.

THE EASTERN CONFERENCE

Outside of the Tampa Bay Lightning, who have a league-high 80 points, no other team in the East has locked up a playoff berth. Although it's hard to imagine the Flyers catching the Metropolitan-leading New York Islanders (70 points) or defending Stanley Cup champion Washington Capitals (67), Columbus Blue Jackets (65) and the fading Penguins (63), who the Flyers play two more times after Monday are within reach.

They won't because of ...

THE GIANT HOLE THEY DUG THEMSELVES

To illustrate just how bad the Flyers were for the first three-plus months, consider that they have won nine of their last 10 games and are still six points back of a playoff spot. Also, lose three of four and fall back double-digit points and the task becomes even more monumental.

TOO MANY YOUNG PLAYERS

With the exception of Hart, it's difficult to count on the rest of the team's first- and second-year players (Nolan Patrick, Oscar Lindblom, Travis Sanheim, etc.) to sustain this level of play for the next two months. Those players typically fade down the stretch, not the other way around.

THE SCHEDULE

After Monday's game, the Flyers play 17 of their final 26 contests against teams that would be in the playoffs. Plus, nine of those games are on the road, where they are just 11-13-3.

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Elton Brand winning as new Sixers general manager

The first-year GM is making all the right moves and has the Sixers ready to make a deep run in the playoffs.

JEFF MCMENAMIN
sports@metro.us

GETTY IMAGES

As a Sixers player, Elton Brand was always one of the most respected guys not only on the team but across the NBA. He was humble, worked hard at his craft, played hard and was a natural leader.

Sure, his five seasons in Philadelphia may not have lived up to the five-year, $82 million in contracts he signed as a free agent. He only averaged 12.7 points and 7.2 rebounds per game, while the Sixers made it past the first round of the playoffs just once.

But Brand was the voice behind the scenes to make sure young guys like Andre Iguodala, Lou Williams and Jrue Holiday developed into the players they are today.

When the Sixers decided to name Brand as their general manager after the Bryan Colangelo fallout this summer, many looked at Brand as just a face to help repair the image of their front-office circus. But in just a few short months, Brand has proved, just like he did as a player, that he's as hard-working a general manager as they come.

With his first move, in November, Brand sent Robert Covington, Dario Saric, Jerryd Bayless and a 2022 second-round draft pick to the Minnesota Timberwolves in exchange for four-time All-Star Jimmy Butler and Justin Patton.

At the trade deadline this past week, Brand took a page out of former Sixers general manager Sam Hinkie's book by making a slew of moves.

In the wee hours of Wednesday morning, Brand sent Landry Shamet, Wilson Chandler, a 2020 first-round pick, Miami's 2021 first-round pick as well as 2021 and 2023 second-round picks to the Los Angeles Clippers in exchange for sharp-shooting Tobias Harris, Boban Marjanovic and Mike Scott. This trade would have been a win in itself, but Brand wasn't done.

He then sent enigmatic No. 1 pick from the 2017 NBA draft, Markelle Fultz, to the Orlando Magic for some additional depth in forward Jonathon Simmons, a protected 2020 first-round pick (via Oklahoma City) and a 2019 second-round pick.

He also acquired wing James Ennis from the Houston Rockets in exchange for the rights to swap second-round picks in the 2021 NBA draft.

"We believe we are in position to contend now," Brand said Friday at the Sixers' training complex in Camden, N.J, "and our moves reflect that belief."

Brand is seen by many analysts nationally as the biggest winner of the trade deadline. The general consensus is that with the addition of Harris, the Sixers have the best starting unit in the Eastern Conference.

A lineup of Ben Simmons (16.9 points), J.J. Redick (18.6 points), Jimmy Butler (19.0 points), Harris (14.0 points) and Joel Embiid (27.2 points) will pose matchup problems for any team.

"[Simmons and Embiid] rapidly improved over the last season, so the window [of reaching the NBA Finals] is now," Brand said.

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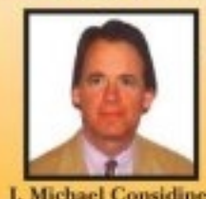

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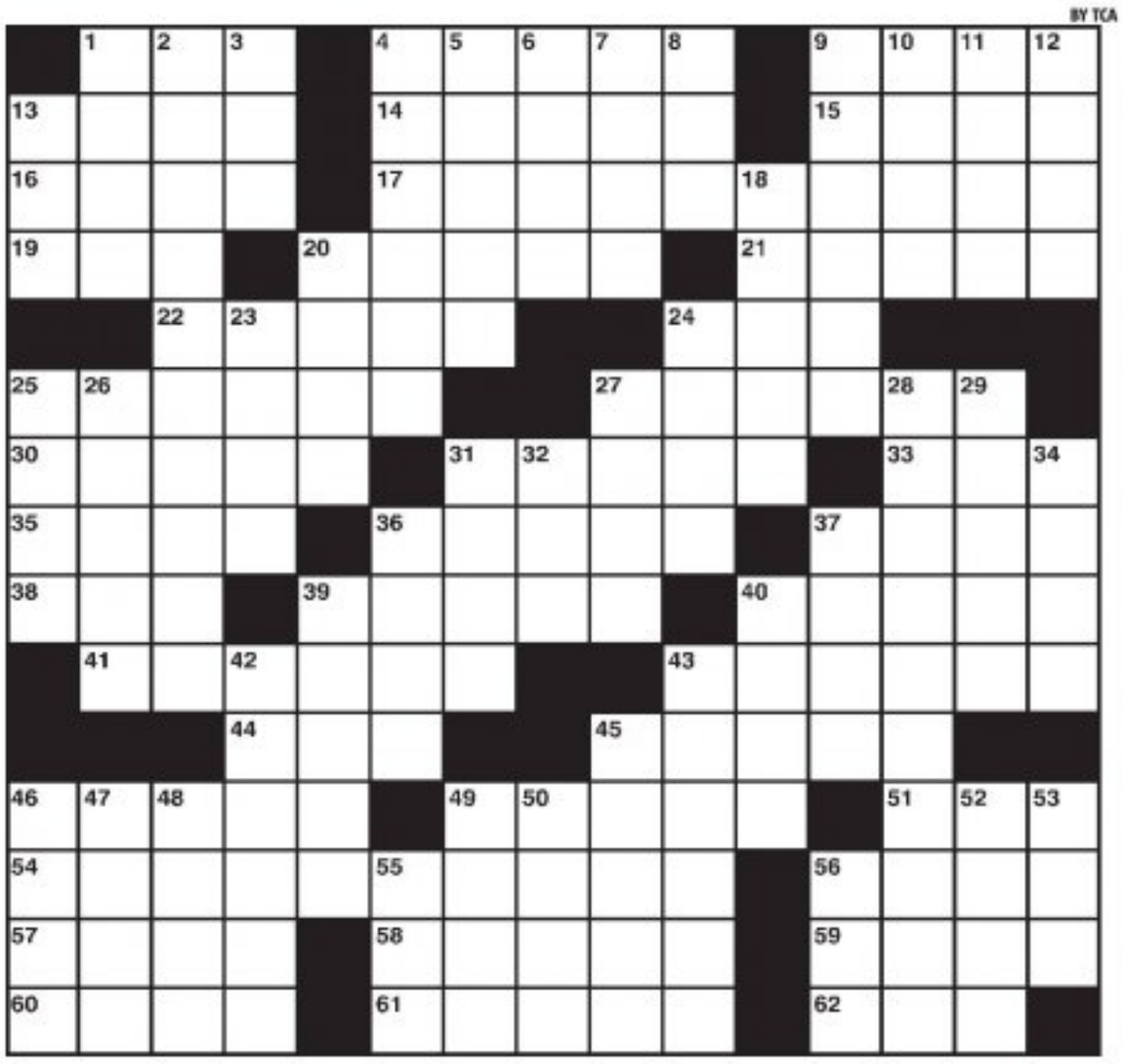

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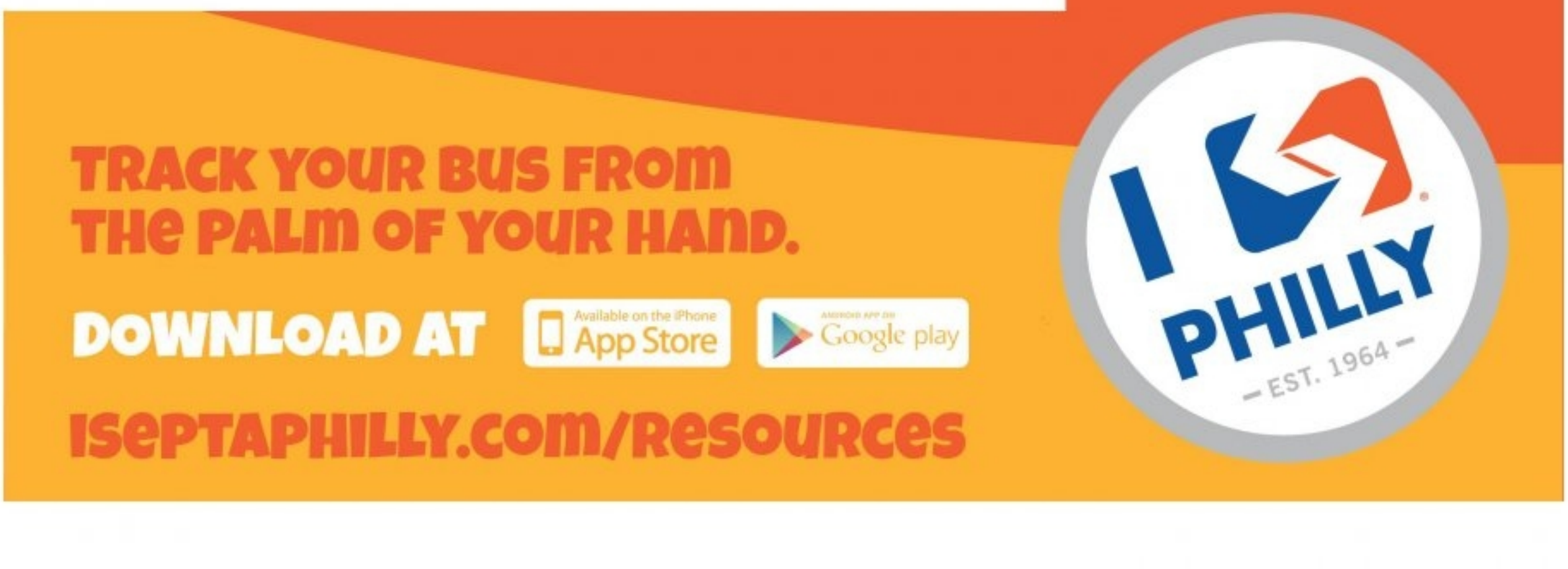

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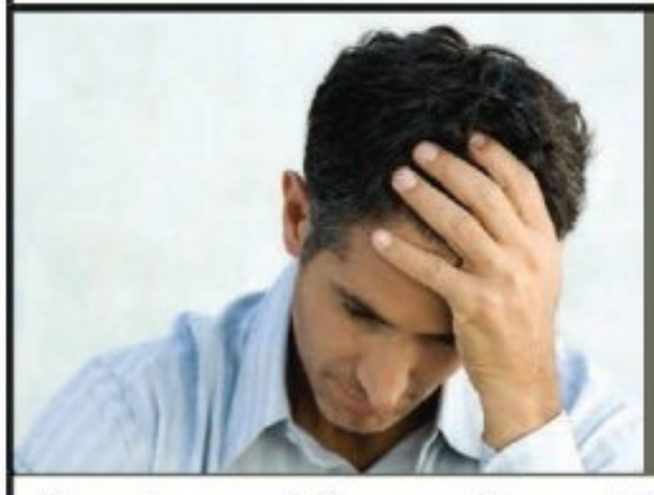

DEPRESSED?

Are you treating your depression with medication? Are you still feeling depressed?

If so, please call Hassman Research Institute about participating in our research study of an investigational drug for adults with treatment-resistant depression.

Qualified participants must: • Be 18 or older • Be taking prescribed antidepressant medication • Be currently experiencing a depressive episode

Insurance is not required to participate in our study, and all study-related care and study medications are provided at no charge.

Transportation and compensation up to $7,500 for time and travel may be available.

For more information, call toll-free 866-264-4545 or visit HRITrials.com

www.metro.us